from certain quarters that some deserving cases were not considered for the award, it was decided to make the selection process more transparent and also include more sportspersons in the Selection Committee.

(c) and (d) Reviewing of existing schemes is an ongoing process. Accordingly, the Government has recently revised the scheme for Arjuna Awards for outstanding performance in Sports and Games. The following are the major steps which have been taken in this regard:—

(i) Enlarged Selection Committee with more non-official members.

(ii) Excellence in performance at International level only will be taken into account for selecting the Awardees.

(iii) The sportsperson found positive for use of banned drugs in any laboratory accredited by the International Olympic Committee will not be eligible for Arjuna Award.

(iv) Maximum number of Awardees has been fixed at 15 in any calendar year.

(v) The prize money has been increased from Rs.1.50 lakhs to Rs. 3.00 lakhs.

Promotion of sports

1183. SHRI DRUPAD BORGHAIN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) what policy Government have to promote sports in the country;

(b) what type of help is given to sports associations in States; and

(c) how Government help the North Eastern States in general and Manipur in particular?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) Government has recently

(b) what type of help is given to sports associations in States; and

(c) how Government help the North Eastern States in general and Manipur in particular?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) Government has recently announced the National Sports Policy - 2001 with its main thrusts on the "boradbasing' of sports and "achieving excellence" in sports at the National and International levels. The main features of the policy are as under:

I Broadbasing of Sports and achievement of excellence;

II Up-gradation and development of infrastructure;

III Support to the National Sports Federations and other appropriate bodies;

IV Strengthening of scientific and coaching support to sports;

V Incentives to sports persons;

VI Enhanced participation of women, tribals and rural youth;

VII Involvement of the Corporate Sector in sports promotion; and

VIII Creation of greater awareness in promotion of sports.

(b) Government does not provide any assistance to sports associations in states as 'sports' is a State subject. However, assistance is provided to Sports Federations/Associations recognized by the Government.

(c) All the sports schemes implemented by the Government are implemented all over India including the States of the North Eastern Region, and the State of Manipur.